

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 25, 2010

The City Council Transportation Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 25th day of March, 2010, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmembers Butler, Cubberley, Kovach, and Chairman Quinn

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Phil Cottten, Police Chief  
Ms. Rebecca Frazier, Assistant City Attorney  
Ms. Betty Love, Assistant to Doug Myers, CART  
Mr. Doug Myers, OU Parking and Transportation Administrator  
Ms. Janice Oak, Progressive Independence  
Ms. Linda Price, Revitalization Manager  
Mr. Cody Ponder, Grants Specialist II for OU  
Ms. Barbara Slajer, Interested Citizen  
Mr. Wayne Wickman, OU Transit Operations Manager  
Ms. Syndi Runyon, Administrative Technician IV

### DISCUSSION REGARDING CART RIDERSHIP REPORT INCLUDING SAFERIDE AND EXTENDED SERVICE.

Mr. Wayne Wickman, OU Transit Operations Manager, said warmer weather attracts more riders and the Cleveland County Express spikes up and down at the beginning of the school year as there may be more ridership for students wanting to visit the Social Security Office in Moore. Councilmember Cubberley asked if the Little Axe route has increased ridership and Mr. Doug Myers, OU Parking and Transportation Administrator, said the ridership is not there and, due to budget issues, CART is discussing cutting back days of service or discontinuing service. Chairman Quinn suggested speaking with residents before cutting them off. Mr. Wickman said CART expanded the service because residents showed real interest, but ridership did not increase.

Councilmember Butler said an Inclusive Community Dialogue is scheduled in Little Axe on April 12th in the Little Axe Elementary School and she felt this would be a good time for CART to discuss the issue with residents. Mr. Wickman agreed, but did not want to intrude and Councilmember Butler told them to contact Mr. Mike Ridgeway. Chairman Quinn asked if the meetings still consisted of round table discussions and suggested CART provide materials to spur discussion. Councilmember Cubberley suggested contacting Mr. Ridgeway to see what the topics will be and ask if they would be amenable to adding transportation as a topic or part of another topic.

Mr. Myers said the frequency of the route to Noble and Lexington may also be cut back. Councilmember Cubberley asked if Cleveland County contributed any funding to CART and Mr. Myers replies no.

Items submitted for the record

1. Norman CART Routes: Total Weekday Passenger Trips, FY 2008-09; Average Daily Passenger Trips, FY 2008-09; CARTaccess, FY 2008-09; Same Day and Zone Two; Weekday Bicycle Totals 2008-09; Saturday Fixed Route; and Average Daily Trips – Saturday Totals

**DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSAL FOR ALLOWING GOLF CARTS TO BE DRIVEN ON CITY STREETS.**

Chairman Quinn said the Committee had previously discussed allowing golf carts to be driven on City streets and Member Kovach asked to discuss the item again. Councilmember Kovach said, in his Ward, there are two institutions that use golf carts as transportation for very limited purposes. He said Bethel Baptist Church has an adjacent parking lot across McGee and they shuttle people back and forth across McGee to the church. He said, technically, they are not supposed to be on City streets and there is a similar situation in the Clarendon Apartments where they use golf carts to run back and forth between apartment complexes for maintenance or showing apartments. Councilmember Kovach said he understands the Police Department's concern regarding safety, but he would like Council to consider a very limited use for driving golf carts on residential streets with speed limits under 25 miles per hour not to include major streets. He said this would provide flexibility to those institutions so they would not be breaking the law.

Chairman Quinn said he thought some cities allowed this and Ms. Rebecca Frazier, Assistant City Attorney, said, under State law, the City could draft an ordinance limiting golf carts to residential areas, but said the main concern is safety and golf carts being driven on major thoroughfares. She said there is a distinction between golf carts and Low Speed Electric Vehicles (LSEV), which, by state law, citizens can drive on any street with speed limits under 35 mph and in that case no ordinance would be needed. Councilmember Butler asked if LSEV's have to be tagged and insured and Ms. Frazier said under federal guidelines they have to be outfitted with a long list of items such as seatbelts, headlights, tail lights, etc. Councilmember Cubberley said an ordinance would not make Bethel Baptist Church legal as McGee is not a residential street even though it is 25 miles per hour and traffic on McGee would be problematic. He said he would not be in favor of enacting an ordinance allowing golf carts to go head to head with cars especially since many people go over the 25 mph speed limit on McGee. He said there is a legal way to be on the street and that is by using LSEV's.

Councilmember Butler said the section line thoroughfares with neighborhoods trapped in the middle are not conducive to golf carts. Councilmember Kovach said people in motorized wheelchairs are doing what golf carts would do and all he is asking is that Council not put a financial burden on someone just to make it more accessible to get around their neighborhood. He said Council can place restrictions on golf carts on streets such as no crossing roads which are not residential, but Chairman Quinn said that would not help Bethel Baptist. Councilmember Kovach asked if it were technically illegal to drive motorized wheelchairs on the street. Ms. Frazier said she did not believe it

was and Chief Cotten said they would be considered pedestrians. Councilmember Cubberley said not all streets have sidewalks or accessible sidewalks so citizens in wheelchairs have to drive in the street. Chief Cotten said cities that allow golf carts in the streets such as Wayne, Hobart, Wyandotte, Piedmont, Perry, etc., do not have a population of over 5,000.

Chief Cotten assured Councilmembers that the Police Department is not looking to cite people being transported by golf cart from a parking lot to church across the street, but there is another issue that has come to his attention; Mr. Jimmy Miller would like to transport citizens to the OU Stadium on game days using Jenkins Avenue, which, during game days, is a very busy street so the Police Department has denied his request. Councilmember Cubberley said even if an ordinance was enacted, the golf cart would not be allowed on Boyd Street or Jenkins Avenue.

Chairman Quinn asked if there were any support for an ordinance and heard none.

Items submitted for the record

1. Article dated August 6, 2008, from the Chicago Tribune, "Cheap Ride: More towns let golf carts putter about"
2. Pertinent excerpts from Transportation Committee Meeting minutes of August 21, 2008
3. Memorandum dated August 7, 2008, from Phil Cotten, Chief of Police, to Steve Lewis, City Manager
4. Oklahoma Statutes Citationized, Title 47. Motor Vehicles, Chapter 11, Rules of the Road, Section 11-1116 – Self-Propelled or Motor-Driven Cycles – Minibikes, Golf Carts, All-Terrain Vehicles – Prohibitions and Restrictions
5. Article dated August 8, 2008, from Chicago Tribune, "Cheap ride: More towns let golf carts putter about"
6. Article dated July 20, 2008, from USA Today, "More golf carts leaving greens"
7. Draft Ordinance submitted by James Robertson
8. City of Hobart Ordinance No. 2009-02
9. City of Hobart Golf Cart Permit Application
10. Memorandum dated March 18, 2008, from Stephen T. Murdock, to Mayor, Council and City Manager
11. City of Norman Speed Limits – Specifically dated October 17, 2005
12. City of Edmond Ordinance No. 3133

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.